

Mini Transfer and Recycling Facility Operational Policy

Charlotte County Public Works Solid Waste Division

Effective Date – October 1, 2015

POLICY:

The County's Mini Transfer & Recycling Facilities (West County and Mid County) are made available for disposal and recycling activities: refuse (see definitions, page 6), rubbish, bulky items, tires, appliances, hazardous wastes, used hypodermic needles, recyclables and yard trimmings generated from occupied residential dwelling units (see definitions, page 6). Use of these facilities is limited to those residents living within Charlotte County. Residents must have the ability to off-load materials by hand. Customers need to comply with Florida Statutes requiring their loads to be covered and/or secured.

This facility is for residential waste only. Suspected commercial or business waste use will be prosecuted for theft of service through the County Code Enforcement Division and/or Sheriffs' Office and/or State Attorney's Office, as appropriate for the offense, and the County will seek financial restitution.

Residents must provide proof of county residency in the form of a valid driver's license with Charlotte County address, or a picture identification card along with either a rental agreement, utility bill or tax receipt. If a resident brings waste on behalf of a friend or relative, the resident whose waste it belongs to must accompany the driver. Seasonal residents with out of state driver's licenses need to provide proof they are living in Charlotte County such as lease agreements or rental agreements. A Post Office Box will not be accepted as proof of residency.

Businesses, non-profit organizations, governmental agencies (see definitions, page 6), homeowner associations, condominiums, apartment residents and property managers are not permitted to use these facilities for disposal or processing of materials that their business or group generates. The facility will permit limited use by these groups to participate in the recycling of cardboard, aluminum, metal and steel cans, plastics containers, glass bottles, newspaper and office paper.

Owners of unimproved property are not eligible to use these facilities because the property does not pay the yearly sanitation assessment.

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The facility will be closed for County recognized holidays. Vehicles carrying materials requiring a substantial amount of time for unloading will not be allowed access after 3:45 p.m. (This is to allow residents time to unload and leave the facility by 4:00 p.m.)

C.A.R.E. Re-Use Store:

C.A.R.E. (Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc.) is a non-profit local organization. The two C.A.R.E. re-use stores accept donations of used toys, appliances, furniture, hand tools, and other similar household items which are still in a usable condition. The C.A.R.E. re-use stores sell donated items to help fund programs the organization provides to Charlotte County residents. C.A.R.E. staff will determine need and can reject or accept materials at their sole discretion. County staff does not operate this facility. The

County does not accept donations after the C.A.R.E. personnel have left for the day. Both C.A.R.E. re-use stores are open between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 941.624.3488 (Mid County) or 941.697.8800 (West County) for more information or to volunteer with C.A.R.E.

Household Product Reuse Shop – (Only available at the Mid County Facility on Kenilworth Blvd.)

Visit the County's Chemical Reuse Shop at Mid County Mini Transfer & Recycling Facility and take home anything from motor oil, furniture polish, to house paint for **FREE**. The Reuse Shop is located inside C.A.R.E. and residents must sign a waiver of liability to receive the products. These products are limited to availability and on a first come basis.

Limitations:

Visitation and Volume Restrictions: Each residential property with a dwelling unit is limited to 12 visits to the yard trimmings and refuse unloading area not to exceed 18 cubic yards total which also includes a limit of 6 cubic yards of construction and demolition (C&D) debris (see definitions page 6) per County Fiscal Year (October 1 through September 30). Each October 1st the residential address will start with a zero cubic yard accumulation total. The visitation limit does not apply to household hazardous waste or recycling. The County calculations of the quantity delivered will be made by the attendant on duty with each visit by the resident. (See volume estimation formula on page 5). The accumulative total per residential address will be tracked by the Solid Waste Division. Residents will be denied access should they attempt to exceed the established limit. Residents have several other options:

1. Take material to the landfill and pay a disposal fee.
2. Hire a contractor to take the material to a permitted disposal location.
3. Properly prepare materials for curbside collection.

Load Inspections: If it is *suspected* that the materials that you have brought in are commercially generated, not from your own property or from out of county, a load inspection will be completed.

A random load inspection may occur as a result of the following criteria: size of load, type of vehicle, characteristics of debris and/or frequency of visits. These or other factors can all trigger a load inspection. The process is as follows:

1. Facility operator to complete a load inspection form.
2. Load inspection form sent to Code Compliance and/or the Sheriff's Department.
3. Code Compliance and/or the Sheriff's Office will forward results of their findings to the County's Solid Waste Division.

Upon completion of a load inspection, if it is *determined* that the materials you have brought in are commercially generated, not from your own property or from out of county, you will be denied future use of the Transfer Facilities. This may also result in a civil and/or criminal investigation for theft of service.

Materials Restrictions/Clarifications:

- Used hypodermic needles (sharps) must be in an approved and sealed medical waste container – the facility will provide an empty approved container to the resident
- Length limits for refuse and yard trimmings is limited to 8 foot long sections
- Residential used lawn mowers must have oil, battery and fuel removed
- Re-modeling debris / C&D debris, shall be limited to 6 cubic yards each county fiscal year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30)
- Cabinets must be broken down (flattened)
- Reroofing debris is prohibited

Prohibited Trailers and Vehicles:

- Commercial vehicles will be permitted to use the facilities provided the vehicle is not used to dispose of commercial or business waste. The commercial vehicles will be prohibited if the nature of their material or quantities would be presumed to be commercial and therefore non-eligible. Example – plumbing truck carrying residential yard trimmings will be permitted.
- Trailers longer than 12 feet in length or wider than 6 feet are prohibited

Prohibited Materials:

- Electronic Waste (TVs, computers, etc.)
- Leaking or unsealed containers
- Explosives and firearms
- Junk cars, boats, tractors, trailers
- Yard trimmings in plastic bags
- Land clearing debris from vacant lots
- Food, fruit and other rotting or odorous materials
- Medical waste /"Red Bag" waste such as bandages
- 55 gallon drums (containing liquid)
- Tree stumps that are larger than 20 inches in diameter
- Any containers larger than 5 gallons
- Tires larger than 22"
- Combustion engines (except from residential lawn mowers)

Examples of Typical Materials Accepted:

Special Wastes:

- Appliances (washers, dryers, refrigerators, water heaters and stoves)
- Lawnmowers: must have oil, battery and fuel removed
- Air conditioners
- Lead-acid (automobile & marine) batteries, rechargeable batteries
- Fluorescent bulbs: “unbroken” fluorescent bulbs will be accepted; broken bulbs release mercury and therefore cannot be accepted at the facility. (Fluorescent bulbs include compact fluorescent [CFL’s] as well as fluorescent tubes).
- Propane tanks: tanks must not be larger than 80 lb. capacity
- Tires: limit 6 per year; light pick-up truck and car tires with or without rims up to 22”
- Hot tubs and truck caps must be cut into smaller sections
- Prescription and non-prescription drugs
- Used hypodermic needles (sharps)
- Household Chemicals (oil, oil filters, gasoline, diesel fuel, anti-freeze, paint)
- Recycling (paper, plastics #1-7, glass bottles, cardboard, aluminum)
- Mercury containing devices
- Flares and small caliber ammunition

Yard Trimmings:

- Yard trimmings: pruning materials from routine residential property includes palm fronds, branches, limbs, and clippings.
- Yard trimmings are limited to 8 foot long sections and tree stumps that are smaller than 20 inches in diameter.

Refuse:

- Furniture (mattresses, desks, chairs, tables, sofas, and similar household items)
- Toys, swing sets, lawn furniture
- Re-modeling debris (C&D debris) from small home projects performed by the property owner is allowed and may include these typical types of project materials: floor and bathroom tile, cabinets, carpeting, wood, gypsum, concrete, bricks, blocks, wire cable and pipes. This shall be limited to 6 cubic yards each county fiscal year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30).
- Refuse is limited to 8 foot long sections

Justifications:

- **Trailer Size Limit:** The prohibition of trailers over 12 feet in length or 6 feet in width is necessary:
 - 1) Long trailers exceed the facilities design for safe turning radius and hinder the egress of other customer vehicles.
 - 2) Large trailers loaded with materials monopolize space as the customer takes a disproportionate amount of time to unload large volumes of material.
 - 3) Large trailers are typically associated with commercial business activities.
 - 4) These facilities are designed to provide residents with quick and efficient access.
- **Dump trucks and Trailers:** The prohibition for dump trucks is necessary:
 - 1) Dump trucks are typically associated with commercial business activities.
 - 2) The facility is not designed for dumping loads, as materials must be lifted into the transport trailers.
- **Tree stumps larger than 20 inches:** The prohibition of tree stumps larger than 20 inches is necessary:
 - 1) Large stumps are typically associated with commercial business land-clearing activities.
 - 2) Large tree trunks damage the Transfer Facility trailers.
- **Volume Restriction Policy:** This volume restriction policy is necessary:
 - 1) Customers generating more than the identified limit would be associated with commercial / business activity.
 - 2) Large volume customers are taxing the facilities resources.
 - 3) Excessive volumes are inflating the cost of operations.
 - 4) Generate excessive quantities of materials requiring the need to transport to the landfill for processing.

Volume Estimation Formula:

Type of Vehicle	Measurement
Car Trunk	.5 cubic yard
Pick-up truck - Regular Bed	1 foot of volume = 1 cubic yard
Pick-up truck - Large Bed	1 foot of volume = 1.5 cubic yard
6 to 7 foot long Trailers	1 foot of volume = 1 cubic yard
8 to 10 foot long Trailers	1 foot of volume = 1.5 cubic yards
11 to 12 foot long Trailers	1 foot of volume = 2 cubic yards

- Volume calculation is based on the entire truck or trailer beds evenly distributed with debris. Facility operator will make adjustments for voids or partial loads.
- Visual estimations can assume that a typical job site port-a-john is the equivalent to 3 cubic yards.

Definitions:

- **Governmental Agencies** – Includes the Board of Charlotte County Commissioners, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office's, Charlotte County Public Schools and state agencies.
- **Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris** – materials from the construction, demolition, or renovation of any part of a structure, inside or outside. Glass, brick, sheetrock, lumber, pipe, tile, carpet/padding, wood scrap, doors, windows, cabinets, sinks, toilets, countertops, landscaping timbers, fencing, screen, vinyl siding, concrete, asphalt, and rocks are all examples of C&D. No items longer than 8 feet are accepted.
- **Putrescible waste, such as household garbage** that decomposes or becomes foul smelling and rots, is **not accepted**.
- **Refuse** – includes furniture (mattresses, desks, chairs, tables, sofas, and similar household items), toys, swing sets and lawn furniture.
- **Residential Dwelling Unit** – Pertains to the perimeter area of a residential home including a standard lot - sized 80 x 120 square feet (1/4 acre).